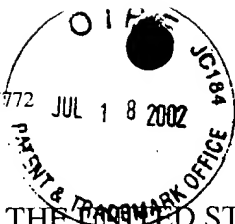


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PATENT



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Attorney Reference Number 6047-53173
Application Number 09/590,795

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Art Unit: 2818

Agarwal et al.

Application No. 09/590,795

Filed: June 8, 2000

For: METHODS FOR FORMING AND
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT STRUCTURES
CONTAINING RUTHENIUM AND TUNGSTEN
CONTAINING LAYERS

Examiner: David Vu

Date: July 12, 2002

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RESPONSE

In response to the Office action of April 12, 2002, reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-42, 59-63, and 66-70 are pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 14-15, 20-31, and 59-63 stand rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Fieberg et al. U.S. Patent 4,105,442 ("Fieberg"). This rejection is traversed. Claim 1 recites a method of forming an enhanced-surface-area electrically conductive structure that includes providing a layer containing ruthenium oxide and converting at least a portion of the ruthenium oxide in the layer to ruthenium so as to produce a ruthenium-containing layer having a rough surface. Fieberg does not teach, suggest, or provide any motivation for such a method. Fieberg is directed to a process for recovery of ruthenium and describes treating a ruthenium-containing solution to produce a precipitate of insoluble ruthenium dioxide that is separated by filtration. The ruthenium dioxide is washed with dilute acid to free it of entrained impurities, and then reduced with hydrogen at an elevated temperature, producing ruthenium metal. Fieberg, col. 4, lines 54-59. Thus, Fieberg teaches a ruthenium oxide containing precipitate and is silent